



Information Resource Centers

• The U.S. Diplomatic Mission

*Leipzig*

## Library Info Alert March/April 2005

*Library Info Alert* focuses on recent developments in the field of library science and information management in the United States. The Library Info Alert contains summaries of recent articles from leading library-related periodicals and recommended Internet sites. Our goal is to help the librarians to maintain their libraries as centers for information and lifelong learning in the electronic environment of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### 1. So Goes the Community

**(American Libraries, April 2005, Vol. 36, Iss. 3, pp. 32 - 52)**

Whether restructured, revamped, or rebuilt, libraries are drawing new attention as community centers, anchors, and mainstays. Nowhere is this more visible than in New York City, where architects have breathed new life into more than 30 school libraries, thanks to a collaborative initiative between the city's education department and the Robin Hood Foundation to renovate elementary school libraries.

### 2. Create, Organize and Expedite a Strategic Plan

**(Information Outlook, March 2005, Vol. 9, Iss. 3, pp. 21 - 24)**

Special librarians sometimes have make-it-up-as-we-go-along attitude, but they also like to know where they are going and what they need to do to get there. For these reasons, it is important to have pertinent management tools to help them create, organize and expedite their strategic plans - to make sure they get where they want to be and where their customers need them to be. Here, Claggett and Eklund discuss two useful tools to organize and expedite the strategic planning process: the balanced scorecard and the stage-gate funnel.

### 3. Creating Community Online

**(American Libraries, April 2005, Vol. 36, Iss. 4, pp. 68 - 71)**

Steven J. Bell, director of the Paul J. Gutman Library at Philadelphia University, discusses the goal of a webcasted workshop series, "Information Literacy and Collaboration with Faculty: How Blended Librarians Make It Work," and highlights the first online library conference. Leaders of the workshop used new technology to sustain the learning experience, and for many librarians, an online learning community represents the future in continuing professional

development.

### 4. Ask a Librarian Gives Florida Libraries Something to Chat About

**(Public Libraries, Mar/Apr 2005, Vol. 44, Iss. 2, pp. 101 - 105)**

*Ask a Librarian*, a statewide collaborative chat service, began in summer 2003 and has steadily grown, adding member libraries and expanding its service to patrons. Winter Park Public Library was one of the first public libraries in Florida to offer electronic chat and was a member of *Ask a Librarian* when it went live. Membership in the collaborative has offered the library a chance to work with librarians and citizens across the state while offering expanded access to online information and reference resources.

### 5. Readers Advisory: A Community Effort?

**(Public Library, January/February 2005, Vol. 44, Iss. 1, pp. 24 - 26)**

Steven M. Cohen, creator of librarystuff.net, a weblog dedicated to resources for keeping current and professional development, believes that readers advisory is that ubiquitous service that permeates all public libraries. He addresses numerous online resources dealing with readers advisory issues. He further hypothesizes about the possibilities of providing readers advisory service via the library OPACs using patron records.

### 6. Are You the Librarian?

**(American Libraries, March 2005, Vol. 36, Iss. 3, pp. 32 - 34)**

Jennifer S. Kutzik, information technology technician

II at Colorado State University, discusses several

issues affecting library support staff, including budgets and retiring workers, pay discrepancy, certification programs, and advancement opportunities. She urges forward-looking library deans and directors to encourage their support staff

to join professional organizations and attend conferences geared towards professional development.

### **7. Post-Occupancy Evaluation of Public Libraries: Lessons Learned from Three Case Studies**

**(Library Administration & Management, Winter 2005, Vol. 19, Iss. 1, pp. 16 - 26)**

Inadequately sized spaces. Both staff and visitors made numerous remarks about tight, undersized spaces throughout the library despite the perceived spaciousness of the library overall. The circulation desk, reference desk, and the clerical workroom are crowded with limited space for item preparation and storage. Information and reference areas are tight in space as well. Some visitors felt that the circulation desk can become crowded and slow at times, while others felt it was quick and easy

### **8. Building Community Bridges for Health: Consumer Health Librarians as Health Advocates**

**(Library Trends, Winter 2005, Vol. 53, Iss. 3, pp. 453 - 457)**

Consumer health librarians can and must function as health advocates within their communities, fostering and strengthening local health initiatives by joining community partnerships and providing health resources. Through their unique and important role, health librarians of the twenty-first century will help library, venture out, and make a healthful impact in the broader community.

### **9. Everything I Need to Know I Learned Online**

**(Library Journal, February 2005, Vol. 130, Iss. 3, pp. 34 – 36)**

We do a great deal of fretting about "who gets

picked" in our lives. To our patrons we say, "pick me!" for ask-a services, community information, DVDs, the latest fiction, and now public access. The nice thing about online community is you pick them. The trick is finding the right group, the one you care about and connect with, as a librarian. It doesn't have to be an online community "for" librarians. It might be a great publishing space on the web.

### **10. Bringing Information Literacy to Career Services**

**(Reference Services Review, Vol. 33, Iss.1, 2005)**

The purpose and the importance of information literacy initiatives continue to gain recognition outside the walls of libraries. The success of these initiatives depends largely on their integration into institutional curricula. Librarian outreach to faculty and academic departments is instrumental for successful integration. Student services division, however, are often overlooked as areas in need of librarian outreach and information literacy instruction. This paper will show how innovative outreach activities have helped to forge a partnership between the University at Buffalo Libraries and the University's Career Service Office.

**NOTE: Library Info Alert is available to subscribers only. You may contact us through telephone, fax or e-mail to order the requested material. Full text of articles will be faxed to you as soon as possible. Please send your comments and remarks to [ircleipzig@state.gov](mailto:ircleipzig@state.gov)**

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Wilhelm-Seyfferth-Straße 4 \* 04107 Leipzig \* Tel.: (0341) 213 84 25 \* Fax: (0341) 213 84 43 \*  
E-Mail: [ircleipzig@state.gov](mailto:ircleipzig@state.gov)